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IFW

PATENT

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

**Applicant:** ESAB AB

**Serial Number:** 09/402185

**Filed:** 9/28/99

**For:** METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR FRICTION STIR WELDING

**Attorney Docket Number:** 5746

**AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO OFFICIAL ACTION**  
**and**  
**PETITION FOR AN EXTENSION OF THE TERM**

Commissioner of Patents  
PO Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313

October 3, 2005

Sir:

This communication is responsive to the Official Action dated April 1, 2005 having a shortened statutory period for reply set to expire on July 1, 2005. Accompanying this response is a petition for a 3-month extension of the term to reply. October 1, 2005 was a Saturday. Accordingly, this response is timely filed on Monday October 3, 2005.

**In the Claims:**

Please amend the claims as shown in the section entitled Claim Amendments.

**In the Specification:**

Please amend the claims as shown in the section entitled Specification Amendments. No new matter has been added.

10/06/2005 HVUONG1 00000002 09402185

01 FC:1253  
02 FC:1201

1020.00 OP  
400.00 OP